

GAINESVILLE

The Sun

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H. H. McCREARY, Editor and Publ'r.

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Marriage and Death notices inserted free. Obituaries, 5 cents a line.

OUR CLUBBING LIST.

The Sun and the Thrice-a-Week (N. Y.) World one year..... \$1 35
The Sun and the Atlanta (Ga.) Weekly Constitution one year... 1 75
The Sun and the Atlanta (Ga.) Semi-Weekly Journal one year. 1 50
The Sun and the Semi-Weekly Times-Union one year..... 1 50

We will not accept stamps of a larger denomination than 2 cents.

Governor Broward's inaugural address has been passed upon by the Florida editors and is universally endorsed and commended.

The friends of Dr. Dowie say he has proved himself to be a Christian by paying \$4,000,000 in debts. But what we want to know is, how could any man get hold of \$4,000,000 and still be a Christian?

The Sun gives the public all the county news and official proceedings of the school board and county commissioners. It also publishes the delinquent tax list and nearly all the legal sales. Take The Sun.

Now that the farmers are preparing their land for planting they should not neglect the corn, pindar and velvet bean crops. With plenty of hog and hominy they will be much better prepared to live at home.

Gainesville continues to grow at a rapid rate, there being more buildings in course of construction at present than at any time during the past five years. Every store room is occupied and not a residence is advertised for rent.

Editors Sherwood and Pound of The Live Oak Democrat are being sued for \$10,000 libel by Editor Culpepper of The Perry Herald. Just as we expected. The Democrat has been showing too much evidence of prosperity lately.

Governor Jennings is being highly praised, and justly so, for his course as governor during the four years ending January 3rd, and the entire State press wish him as great success in the banking business as he made of the administration of the people's affairs.

The St. Augustine Evening Record has recently been enlarged and improved until it is now one of the best daily papers that comes to our exchange table. We congratulate Manager D. E. Thompson and Editor Harry L. Brown upon their successful efforts.

Henry M. Flagler's great hotels on the East Coast are now open and being rapidly filled with tourists and those seeking benefit from Florida's balmy climate. He has been the State's greatest benefactor, and to him, more than to any other agency, is due the great progress of the past twelve years.

Well posted Democrats already predict that William Jennings Bryan will head the Democratic national ticket in 1908. Well, he could scarcely make a worse showing than Parker did, and if wheat and corn should take as great a "slump" about the year 1908 as cotton did in 1904 the Nebraskan would be the man for the occasion.

Florida is noted for its excellent weekly newspapers which from week to week convey local happenings. But Major George E. Butler of The Lake Butler Star belongs to be crowned the king of local paragraphs of the weekly press. His paper never fails to contain a full page of live local news, written in brief but interesting style. The Major could get out an interesting newspaper in a village inhabited by only a mule and his driver.

OF INTEREST TO EX-CONFEDS.

There has been a general misunderstanding of the scope of the act of Congress proposing to pay ex-Confederates for horses and other property confiscated from them at the close of the war. The quartermaster-general, C. H. Humphrey, states in detail the manner in which claims are to be filed, no claims to be received later than April, 1906. The following regulations must be observed:

1. Each claimant must state his own claim under oath (the department furnishes no blank forms for the purpose) mailing it to the Quartermaster-General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.

2. In his affidavit he should state name, rank, company and the regiment in which he was serving at the time of the surrender, and by whom officered.

3. The date and place of surrender, and to whom surrendered.

4. That he was paroled at or after the surrender, naming the paroling officer, time and place. Written paroles, if in existence, should be filed with claims; otherwise, the sworn testimony of two credible persons (preferably soldiers) knowing the facts, must be submitted as proof.

5. That he was required to be mounted for the performance of his military duties, and that the property taken was his own and that it was being used in the Confederate service at the time of the surrender and was taken by United States troops, acting or presumably acting under orders, stating how, when and where (and by whom it is known) it was taken. State value of each horse or mule, saddle, bridle, blanket and side arms.

6. At least two credible persons (soldiers preferred) must corroborate all the claimant's statements in essential particulars, stating how their knowledge thereof was obtained.

7. If the soldier be dead, his widow may make the claim. If both be dead, his child, or children jointly; or if no children survive the soldier, a parent may make the claim. Allowance for only one horse and equipment is made to a private soldier, and two horses, equipment and side arms to a commissioned officer.

8. All statements by the claimant and witnesses must be under oath. The credibility of each must be certified to by the official before whom they make the oath and his official seal must be affixed to each affidavit.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

It is reported that the President is demanding action in the matter of the construction of the Panama Canal. The people of the South trust that as he has put his hand to the plow, so to speak, he will go to the end of the furrow in as short a time as possible. The country has money enough, engineering ability enough, workmen enough and information enough to put the canal through—or at least to prove that the project is not feasible. The time for discussion has passed. The plans have been adopted. It is the time for executive action, because Congress has granted all necessary authority and all necessary funds.

The people of the South have a most acute interest in the construction of the canal, because they wish to lay hold of the Oriental trade. They have been waiting and waiting for many years—ever since De Lesseps and the French abandoned the scheme in a cloud of scandal—for American construction and possession of the canal. It was nothing to them, materially, whether the inter-ocean waterway went through Nicaragua or the Isthmus of Darien. They have longed for the canal. The route having been determined, they now want it to be built and they will applaud the President in taking whatever measures he may choose within the purview of his authority, to push the work to its completion. If one group of commissioners prove inefficient another can be found who will do their duty.

J. E. Low has sold The Green Cove Spring to H. M. Pride, an old and experienced newspaper man. While The Sun regrets to see Mr. Low retire from a work in which he has been so long engaged we welcome Mr. Pride to Florida journalism and trust that he will make The Spring the "Pride" of the State press.

It has been calculated that, taking the population of the whole world, there is one newspaper to every 82,600 persons. The United States support 12,500 newspapers, of which 2,000 are dailies, these being round figures. Germany has 5,500 journals of which 800 are dailies.

THE STORY OF A KING.

Once upon a time, as the story goes, the king did something which pleased the owners and keepers of the vineyards round about in his kingdom. Word went out among them that on a certain day they were to assemble, each bringing with him a cupful of the best wine from his best vintage and deposit it in a cask to be presented to their sovereign as a token of their esteem, and incidentally to tickle his palate. One husbandman thought that in a whole cask of wine one cup of water would not be detected, and so he put water in for his portion, keeping his good old wine. The cask being filled was duly sealed, and with much ceremony delivered to the king. When it was opened it was discovered that the cask contained nothing but water. Every contributor had shrewdly, as he thought, come to the same conclusion that just one cup of water would not be detected. Then the king went out and had all of their heads struck off.

This story comes to mind, in view of the proposition to cut down the cotton crop. It is feared that when the impression gets pretty well soaked in that the farmers are really going to curtail the crop, there will be a widespread temptation to dodge back and plant just a "leetle more" cotton. The moral of the story is obvious. King Cotton will chop some heads off if they make that mistake.

THEORY OF THEFT.

Mrs. Chadwick's operations have demonstrated anew the great theory of theft, which is given as follows:

Stealing a million—Genius.
Stealing \$500,000—Sagacity.
Stealing \$100,000—Shrewdness.
Stealing \$50,000—Misfortune.
Stealing \$25,000—Irregularity.
Stealing \$10,000—Misappropriation.
Stealing \$5,000—Speculation.
Stealing \$2,500—Embezzlement.
Stealing \$1,250—Swindling.
Stealing \$100—Larceny.
Stealing \$10—Theft.
Stealing a ham—War on society.

So, dear reader, if you are going to be a thief, by all means be a first-class one.

A few Florida newspapers advocate giving the Railroad Commission more power. The present law is ample for all purposes, as it permits the commission to do everything that could be delegated by additional statute. The commission cannot interfere with railroad charges on interstate commerce, and if discrimination by the corporations in carrying charges between points within the State is not corrected it is the fault of the commission and not of the law. We believe the commission has acted for what was deemed best for all interests, but we confess that its establishment has not rounded materially to the commercial interests of interior towns. Many believe that as much could be accomplished by statute fixing freight and passenger rates as can possibly be accomplished by the commission, and the expense of the latter thereby saved to the tax-payers. It is not likely, however, that the experiment will be tried in the near future.

Only three months and Gainesville will be in the throes of a municipal election, and if current reports be true it will be one of the "warmest" contests the old town has experienced for several years. Just at this time, however, personal feelings should be buried and those candidates voted for who are calculated to best promote the material and spiritual welfare of the city. Great things are in store for our people with the proper men to guide city affairs, but unless care is exercised by the voters a grave mistake may be made.

It is now practically certain that Judge Swayne will be impeached. It is not at all certain, though, just how long a Republican Senate will be about impeaching a Republican judge. The select committee appointed by the House to draft the articles of impeachment has preferred twelve charges, including obtaining money under false pretenses. Swayne is small in stature, but from all accounts he is a big rascal.

The pardoning board refused to grant the petition for the liberation of James Williams, who murdered Mark D. Bartleson at Miami about three years ago and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. It is said that Governor Terrell of Georgia strongly requested the pardon. Williams is reported to be one of the most valuable convicts now leased, being a fine book-keeper and accountant.

CITY AND COUNTRY.

Among the remarks attributed to John D. Rockefeller in a report of a reception given by him to the Young Men's Bible Class, is this: "It will not be long before our city will be as large as London, but I am very sorry to see this tendency of crowding into the city. It seems to me that as the cities grow larger, the country in general becomes weaker. The strength of the country is in the farms and the farmers."

It is quite probable that Mr. Rockefeller made this statement, for it is a true statement, and presents a situation which has impressed other minds besides that of our great capitalist. One of the foremost public men in this country only a few weeks ago commented upon this condition in much the same way as Mr. Rockefeller has done. Not only is the population of the cities increasing more rapidly than that of the country districts, but all business is concentrating more and more into the municipalities. An article in a leading magazine of this month describes in detail the passing of the country store. It shows how immense mercantile concerns centered in the cities are sending out their catalogues and supplying retail purchasers in all parts of the country at prices which make it difficult for the country merchants to compete. Not only is this going on, but small mercantile and manufacturing concerns in country towns are gradually being absorbed by big corporations whose headquarters are in the cities so that the profits of business which were formerly expended in the towns and country places are now concentrated to a greater extent than ever before in the big cities. This process is likely to go to still further lengths, and it would only require a system of branch banks to make the country bank as an independent concern, a thing of the past, just as the country store is becoming.

It is not easy to determine what is the remedy for this condition. It may be a long time, however, before it will reach a point where it really becomes dangerous to the strength of the nation. Possibly there is a point beyond which the concentration in the cities cannot go, and when it reaches that point, a reaction may set in. In some such reaction is to be found the best hope for the future. In this connection it is important to note that along with this steady concentration of population and business in the cities, there is going on also a growth of country homes. That is to say, people of means living in the cities, and having their chief interests there, have taken more and more to erecting handsome residences in the country and living there during a considerable part of the year. There has also been steady progress in the improvement of country roads, and the development of the bicycle, automobile and the trolley are doing much to bring the country and the city into closer touch. Perhaps in these developments are to be found the "saving clause" in the situation. It is certain that in the prosperity of the farmers and the small trades people of the country is the best guarantee for the permanence and liberty of the nation.

At last the pension roll of the United States exceeds one million of persons, the number now being 1,000,781. It is thought the maximum has been reached. There has been a corresponding increase in the payments, but it is given out that the expenses of running the bureau are to be curtailed, and that in the near future some five hundred clerks may be dispensed with. Many of them are receiving larger salaries than they could earn if left to their own resources and reductions are proposed.

A bill will be presented to Congress for the establishment of a parcels post limited in its operations to the people of a city and the patrons of rural routes extending from that city. Such a law would be a great convenience to farmers and not injurious to the merchants of small cities and villages, but would it not be a precedent for a parcels post without limitation—a law whose principal beneficiaries would be the big city establishments?

The American Congress will make no mistake if it puts upon the free list every article manufactured in the United States and sold to consumers in foreign countries cheaper than the same article is sold to consumers in this country.

Tourists are filling the hotels in every nook and corner of the State, and during the next six weeks more strange faces will be seen in Florida than ever before in the history of the commonwealth.

Edward Bellamy said "nothing can overcome the young giant of private monopoly, except the greater giant of public monopoly." He expressed a world of truth in that brief sentence. It is the one way out of the clutches of the trusts. Modern conditions of business compel combination and concentration. Fighting the trusts thus far has been productive of no good to the people. The big monopolies laugh at the puny efforts made to check their robberies. The trouble with the people is not so much that there are trusts, as that the people are not in them. Let the nation own the trusts.

Justice of the Peace Chamblin, of the Archer district, complains that cases accruing in his district have in several instances been tried by justices of other districts, notably Gainesville and Newberry, when he was present in his district and ready to try the cases himself. He justly says this is a violation of the spirit, if not the letter of the law, and will hereafter protest against the county commissioners paying costs in such cases.

A noted astronomer of Chicago says that within a hundred years communications will be established between the earth and the planet Mars. It also might be added that the coal trust is looking forward to this event with a view of securing a corner on the coal production of Mars by wire, even if they have to wait a hundred years before they can mine it.

According to the papers, a man in Waterbury, Conn., will take a wife just to win a hat, but that is no way to state the case. Fact is that owing to the universal prosperity in New England, they throw in a wife with the purchase of a hat. That's why that so many of the denizens of that region wear caps.

The Postoffice Department issues an order making the publication of guessing contests illegal, and yet the Agricultural Department continues to send out its weather bureau guesses to all the papers in the United States. Does not this make Secretary Wilson an accomplice?

Governor Broward has done the right thing by retaining Chas. H. Dickinson of Madison as his private secretary. He was Governor Jennings' private secretary and his retention in the office is hailed with delight by his thousands of friends throughout the State.

Out of two thousand visitors accommodated at Meldland Hall, London, with free bed and board, one thousand were Americans. The United States is getting even on her pauper immigrant proposition.

A prominent educator says cheap shoes are destroying the beauty of the American women. Shoo! Down with the man who can't see that American women are becoming more beautiful all the time.

The total coal production of the United States is now at the rate of 1,000,000 tons a day, and the consumption of coal by railroads is equal to 40 per cent of this, or 400,000 tons a day.

A Michigan woman admits that she had to feed her husband arsenic for two weeks before she could get him killed. He must have been brought up on adulterated foods.

After all, the Department of Agriculture will have to tell us where it got its figures on the cotton crop. So Congress still has some rights a cabinet officer must respect.

The crush of depositors at the savings banks must be very disgusting to the Wall street fellows with large bunches of beautifully engraved stock certificates to sell.

Some literary critics are very vexatious. George Meredith says we have not produced a great writer. We do not know whether he means quality or quantity.

The Turkish government has refused the request of the United States and Great Britain to permit the sale of Bibles in the streets of Turkish cities.

Buffalo Bill is going to become a citizen of France. Bill has lately been discovered doing some Frenchy coosiness toward his wife.

Illinois is the largest whiskey producing State in the Union, yet it cast the largest vote for the Prohibition candidate for President.